



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Ryuichiro EBI et al. Group Art Unit : Not Yet Assigned
Appl. No. : 10/556,131 (U.S. National Stage of PCT/JP2004/004580)
I.A. Filed : March 31, 2004 Examiner : Not Yet Assigned
For : SEALED BATTERY

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and §§1.97-1.98, Applicants hereby bring the following information to the attention of the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application, which includes information cited and discussed in the specification and the International Search Report issued in connection with International Patent Application No. PCT/JP2004/004580, of which the present application is the U.S. National Stage Application. A copy of the International Search Report was enclosed with the papers when entering the U.S. National Stage on November 9, 2005. The Examiner is invited to review these materials to inspect the relevance indicated during international examination with respect to the documents cited therein. The following is a list of the documents cited in the above-noted documents:

Japanese Laid-open Patent Publication No. HEI 8-162076, together with an English language abstract of the same. Applicants note that this document is cited and discussed on page 1 of the specification of the present application;

Japanese Laid-open Patent Publication No. 2000-357495, together with an English language abstract of the same. Applicants note that this document is cited and discussed on page 1 of the specification of the present application;

Japanese Laid-open Patent Publication No. HEI 7-201308, together with an English language abstract of the same;

Japanese Laid-open Patent Publication No. 2001-283795, together with an English language abstract of the same; and

Japanese Laid-open Patent Publication No. 2003-7270, together with an English language abstract of the same.

Further, Applicants call to the Examiner's attention the following documents:

U.S. Patent No. 6,524,739;

U.S. Patent No. 6,946,219;

U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0248002; and

U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0153194.

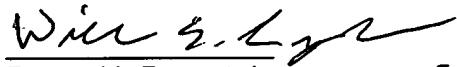
Further to 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(ii), copies of the U.S. patents and the U.S. patent application publications are not enclosed herewith. However, if any copies are needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above material and cite the same. Copies of the above-noted foreign documents are attached hereto and all of the above-noted documents are listed on the attached PTO-1449 Form. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached Form and to return a copy of the completed Form to Applicants with the next official communication in the present application.

Applicants note that an Office Action on the merits has not issued in the present application, and thus no fee is believed necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted material.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ryuichiro EBI et al.


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February 9, 2006
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